

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

OCTOBER 29, 2013

On June 4, 2013, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors ratified the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency throughout the County of Los Angeles due to the 2013 Powerhouse Fire and the resulting conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons, the public, and private property in the San Francisquito Canyon, Lake Hughes, Lake Elizabeth, and Green Valley areas. Subsequently, on July 12, 2013, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. declared that a State of Emergency exists within the County of Los Angeles.

The fire burned over 30,000 acres. Due to the significant loss of vegetation of the watershed above Walkatop Road in the Elizabeth Lake community, there is an increased risk of impact from mud and debris flows coming down Walkatop Road during rainstorm events for the next 3 to 5 years until the burned vegetation has recovered. The safety of the people in the neighborhood along the Walkatop Road requires the Department of Public Works to take immediate action to install emergency protection measures, like the installation of K-rails along both sides of Walkatop Road, in anticipation of the impacts that will be caused by the winter rains.

Also, the installation of emergency watershed protection measures, such as the proposed installation of K-rails, is eligible for reimbursement from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under its Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Typically, this program pays for 75 percent of the eligible implementation costs, thus significantly decreasing the County's costs for installation of the K rails.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the Walkatop Road K-rail Placement project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Installation of K-rails is an action necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency within the definitions of CEQA and is, therefore, exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15269(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines.
2. Authorize Public Works to use in-house forces to implement the installation of K-rails.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Works or her designee to accept a grant from NRCS and to negotiate and execute an agreement with NRCS on any and all matters related to the funding and installation of emergency watershed protection measures to relieve hazards and damages created by the 2013 Powerhouse Fire.

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